

The capital of the Hong-kong Bank has been several times increased. The last increase was from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in 1907. There is a sterling reserve fund, computed at two shillings to the dollar, of \$15,000,000, and a silver reserve fund of \$13,000,000. While the transactions of the bank have not increased rapidly in recent years, the assets have reached the large total of approximately \$300,000,000. Deposits and current accounts, which at the close of 1902 were \$220,692,315, declined for 1906 to \$199,209,882, but recovered on December 31, 1907, to \$224,077,166. Bills payable, including drafts on London, were \$11,475,783. The assets on December 31, 1907, included bills receivable, \$118,006,643; discounts and loans, \$101,598,165; and cash, \$40,508,887.\* Net profits, which were computed at \$3,145,806, are converted into payments to the British shareholders at a much lower rate in gold than when silver was nearer the old legal parity. The bank was able, however, to declare for 1907 a dividend of £2 upon the old shares and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>10</sub>s. upon the new shares, covering the period for which they had been issued. The par value of the shares is \$125, but so large have been the profits of the bank that even the great depreciation of silver has not prevented their rise to a price of about <sup>1</sup>/<sub>100</sub>.<sup>2</sup>

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China increased its capital in 1907 from , £800,000 to ;£1,200,000, and showed a reserve fund of ,£1,475,000.<sup>1</sup> Its assets on December 31, 1907, were <sup>1</sup>/<sub>21</sub>,075,231, or something over two-thirds those of the Hong-kong Bank.<sup>4</sup> Outstanding issues of notes were ,£659,915; current accounts and deposits, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>12</sub>,288,731; and bills payable, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>1</sub>,351,600. Current accounts and deposits rose from ,£9,958,344 at the close of 1902 to ,£13,204,-

<sup>1</sup>*London Bankers' Magazine*, May, 1908, I<sup>1</sup>XXXV., 718.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, May, 1907, LXXXIII., 719.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, May, 1908, LXXXV., 770.

<sup>4</sup>Since the decline of silver to about two shillings to the Mexican dollar, it is necessary to multiply sterling figures by ten in order to reduce them to dollars for comparison with those of the Hong-kong Bank.